



OUR TOWN

Sustaining Hailey's Community

February 2015
Issue No. 136

Visit us online at
www.haileycityhall.org

Message from the Mayor First World First Rate Hailey

Hailey's current funding sources serve Hailey's operational needs, but are not enough to adequately maintain our aging infrastructure. We need to develop new resources to properly maintain and care for our infrastructure, and to build new essential infrastructure when necessary.

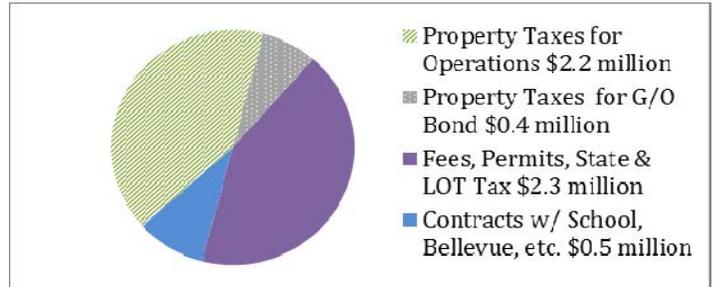
We want to keep Hailey great. We plan to fully discuss with Hailey citizens a capital strategy that will provide essential infrastructure needs and diverse funding methods to support these needs. We will be discussing:

- Caring for Roads, Sidewalks, Bike/Pedestrian Paths & Trees
- Connecting Parks, Trails & River Access to Hailey amenities
- Improving Public Buildings, Library, Cultural Facilities
- Protecting Safe, Healthy Water and Wastewater Systems
- Rejuvenating Infrastructure, Facilities, Equipment, Apparatus

We also will be discussing methods to pay for these assets. In last month's Our Town we listed 15 different revenue sources available to us. Over the next several months, we will discuss many of these revenue sources. We are providing information here about property taxes, which is an extremely important concern of property owners. Tax bills increased this year due to other local jurisdictions approved tax measures. Taxing districts operate under different regulations; the information here is about the property taxes available to cities in Idaho.

Property taxes are currently the basis of nearly half of

Hailey's budgeted general revenue, which comes from these sources:



Cities should not depend only on property taxes. Diverse revenue sources contribute to good financial management. Idaho law limits how much cities can increase taxes without a vote. Hailey receives an additional \$70,000 each year under this 3% cap. This costs Hailey taxpayers \$9 more each year.

Hailey property owners currently pay \$290 annually to the City of Hailey for each \$100,000 of their net taxable property value. This reaches the \$2.2 million in operational tax revenue discussed above. In addition, they pay \$52 each year for the G/O Rodeo Bond payback, which will continue for six more years. Hailey is categorized a Low Property Tax City under Idaho Code 63-802.1.f., because its current general levy of .0029 is below .004. As such, only 60% voter approval is needed to increase taxes to the .004 levy, instead of 66.67%.

All property taxes allowed to cities by Idaho law are shown in the table below. Look to future issues for more discussion of Hailey's needs and funding sources.

Taxing Authority	Maximum Levy	Current tax paid per 100,000 valuation	Maximum tax per 100,000 valuation under maximum levy	Annual funds collected by city under current levy	Total funds available to city annually under max levy
General Fund	.009	\$290	\$900	\$2.2 million	\$6.9 million
Capital Fund	.0004	-0-	\$40	-0-	\$ 306,700
Library	.001	-0-	\$100	-0-	\$ 766,766
Parks & Recreation	.0006	-0-	\$60	-0-	\$ 460,000
Streets	No Limit	-0-	No Limit	-0-	Each \$10 of tax brings \$76,670
Bonds	.02	\$52	\$200 (10 years)	\$398,700	\$15 million

Public Works

Water Conservation Workshop

Date: Friday, March 6, 2015
Time: 8:30 – 2:00pm
Place: Performing Arts Theater at the Community Campus
 1050 Fox Acres Rd, Hailey

The results of a two year climate study on the upper and lower Big Wood Watershed will be the keynote presentation at this year’s Climate and Water Conservation Seminar. John Stevenson, a climatologist (Climate Impact Research Consortium; Oregon State University), will discuss predicted changes to water supply, temperature and snow pack from Galena to the Snake River. His study includes modeling and the impacts associated with land management based on tourism, population growth or agriculture.

The City of Hailey has been a stakeholder in this study and is a co-sponsor of the seminar. We are interested in working proactively on water issues. Overall, the adaptations we make to a changing climate and water management will be factors that give us future choices.

Join us for looking ahead on this important topic. Other sessions include:

- Regional successes in water conservation with municipalities, businesses, agriculture and homeowners;
- Local water management updates; and,
- Conservation workshops for agriculture and homeowners.

Information and register online: 2015 Climate and Water Seminar Call 788-5585 to register. \$15 registration includes lunch. Scholarships available.

Sponsored by Wood River Land Trust, UIdaho Extension, City of Hailey, City of Ketchum and The Big Wood Canal Company.

Calendar



Important Dates

City Council.....	02/09/15
Art & Historic Preservation Commission.....	02/12/15
Parks & Lands Board	02/04/15
Planning & Zoning Meetings	02/09/15
Public Library Board.....	02/18/15
Tree Committee.....	02/12/15
Urban Renewal Agency	02/11/15
*President’s Day	02/16/15

* City Offices Closed

Hailey Public Library February Events

Brrr! Come warm up with these great events.
 HaileyPublicLibrary.org

TNT Thursdays- 4pm.
 Video games for teens and tweens.

Story Time- Fridays at 10am.

Lego Club- Wednesday, February 18th from 3-4pm. Ages 8-12. Legos will be provided.

**Friends of the Hailey Public Library
 General Membership Meeting-**
Wednesday, February 11th, 6:30-7:30pm

**“How Do I Even?” Tech Classes
 @YourLibrary No Registration Required**
 -Keeping Your Computer Healthy:
 Avoiding Spyware, Viruses, and Other Nasty Things Thursday, Feb. 12th, 6-7pm
 -How to Access Our eBook Collection:
 Kindle Edition Thursday, Feb. 26th, 6-7pm

Library Closure: President’s Day-
Monday, February 16th

**Build Your Credit Score by Protecting Your
 Identity– with Lyle Hanson from the U of I
 Jerome County Extension-**
Tuesday, February 17th from 6pm-7:30pm

LTAI Book Club, 4th Discussion-
Thursday, February 19th from 6pm-7pm:
 Discussion of *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Books available now at the library. No library card needed, but if you have one, please bring it.

LIBRARY EVENTS

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FRIENDS of the Hailey Public Library Host Annual Membership Meeting

All are welcome to the Friends of the Hailey Public Library’s annual membership meeting. Active in community building and fundraising, this group is best known for its annual Book and Bake Sale. Their efforts support our great library. Plan to attend!

Date: February 11, 2015
Time: 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
Place: Hailey Public Library



Emergency Services

Hailey Fire Department Report

Hailey Fire Department has been busy. In general, the staff of 3 full time and 19 paid-per-call firefighters respond to 1) all medical calls in Hailey, 2) all structure fires in Hailey, Wood River & Bellevue through auto aid agreements, 3) any other emergency that doesn't require a gun. In total, the department responded to 495 calls for service.

In addition to fundamental services, the fire department supported the following programs and activities in 2014:

Fire Explorer Program

Do the Right Thing Program

Support the Advocates

Fire Intern – Western Kentucky University

Relay for Life team

Hailey Chamber Summer Carnival

Provided for local “fire loss” victims

Responded to Washington State for “Upper Falls” fire

Actively worked with Blaine County School District on

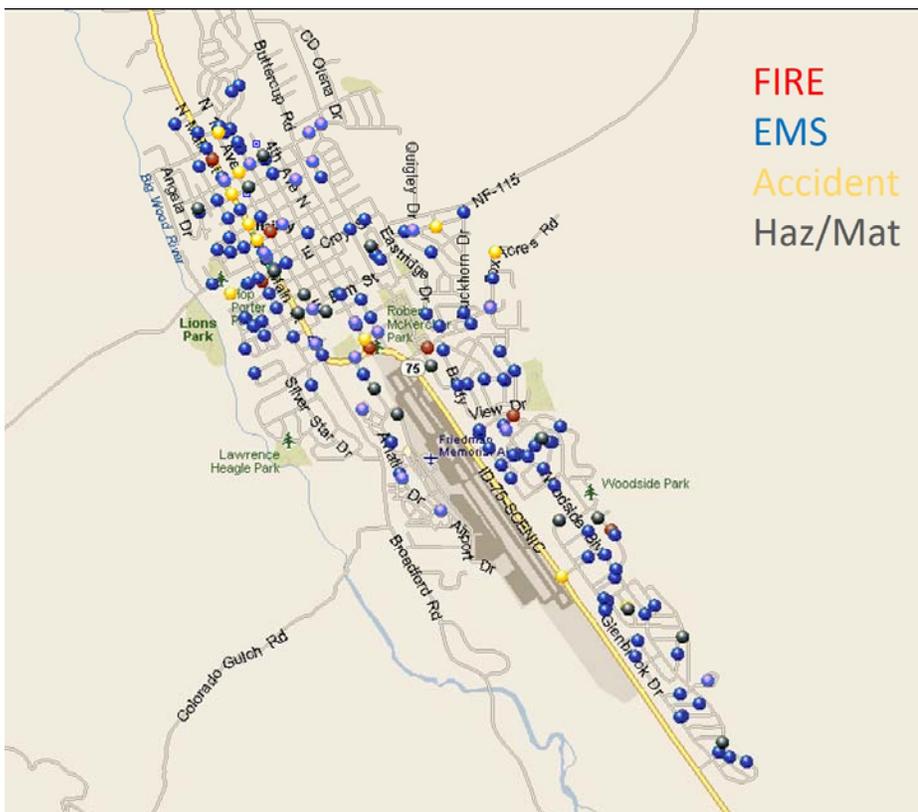
Emergency Management training

Hosted two Live Fire training burns

Installed a flagpole at the fire station

Conducted Santa food and gifts distribution

The map below shows the areas and types of response within Hailey. Find it in color at www.haileycityhall.org



Emergency Services Partnerships

Do-The-Right-Thing Nominations Encourage and Support Youth

Take just a few minutes to nominate an inspiring young person for a Do-The-Right-Thing award.

Three times a year, DO THE RIGHT THING honors youth in Blaine County who distinguish themselves by their positive behavior. The next nomination deadline is February 9, 2015.

Anyone can nominate a youth or group of youths for good deeds done during the last quarter. The current nomination period runs from October 07, 2014 – February 09, 2015.

Every student nominated gets a Do The Right Thing certificate of recognition and a letter from the Hailey Police & Fire Chief. Five top nominees each quarter receive special recognition, one of whom will be selected as a Standout nominee.

All nominations must be submitted online. Follow this link:
<http://www.haileycityhall.org/fire/dotherightthing.asp>



Public Works

Snow Removal and Mailboxes



How come every year someone gets their mailbox plowed or their grass ripped up during snow removal activities? It's not that the snow removal crews are careless, it's that they need the

right of way areas to safely and efficiently remove and store snow. That's one of the main reasons the rights of way are so wide – much wider than the paved surface of the streets.

Mailboxes placed within the city right of way are an encroachment and can impede snow removal; they are difficult to see from a snow plow (especially during a storm event) and are, therefore, difficult to avoid.



The city allows mailboxes with an approved encroachment permit, but only if they conform to the requirements: 8 feet from the asphalt, permanently placed, but not installed in concrete. Removing snow is no easy task and during the winter the rights of way are fully utilized to provide a wide enough space for blades and plows to maneuver around and get things cleaned up.

Even with an approved encroachment permit, the owner bears the risk of a mailbox, landscaping or other items being damaged; the city is not responsible for damage to items in the right of way.



Winter Terrain Park at Keefer a Success Thanks to Donation

With a generous contribution from Sun Valley Company, Hailey's Keefer Park in Woodside is now seeing use year round. Volunteers included Hailey Parks and Lands Board members Lamar Waters and Phil Rainey; and Hailey City Councilman Pat Cooley.

The Winter Terrain Park includes nine different features such as rails, boxes and other pieces donated by Sun Valley Company for skiers and snowboarders to use. During a strategic planning session last spring, the city identified a goal to create an area or feature that would provide a place to recreate during the winter. Parks and Lands Board members decided on a winter terrain park. The Winter Terrain Park has an adjoining sledding hill, bringing fun for all ages, free of charge. Expansion of the terrain area has already begun, with a new C rail being completed in the coming weeks. Park users can take an active role in designing and building approaches and take a stewardship role in maintaining the park.

The Winter Terrain Park will allow skiers and snowboarders to practice their freestyle skills. These types of parks are most common at ski resorts, where users are usually required to pay a fee. The idea for the Winter Terrain Park at Keefer Park is to provide free training grounds to help develop skills that can then be used on Bald and Dollar Mountains or at other ski resorts.

SNOW REPORT (so far this season)

934..... hours spent removing snow
39,000.... dollars spent to remove snow
(fuel, staff, contractor costs, equipment rental)
31..... inches of snow removed
5..... snow storms over 3 inches
910..... ounces of coffee consumed
8..... nights spent removing snow and ice
(including Christmas Eve and Christmas night)